

Sample Slab Update #16 – January 2017

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

Market Notes

The sample slab market remained active in the last months of 2016. In addition to the many new samples distributed by major US graders in Asia, samples from PCGS Europe appeared with increasing frequency. Sellers in Germany, Britain, Spain, and other nations sell PCGS samples holding coins from France, Germany, Spain, Poland, and Greece. In other cases, PCGS Europe emphasizes its American roots by distributing US Shield cents and 2005 Jefferson Bison nickels. The France 10 cent and 20 cent coins earn about \$25, while most of the others earn only \$10 or less. These prices are depressed, however, by the need for US buyers to pay shipping which can reach \$15, meaning a coin with an ending price of \$8 may have gone to a collector willing to pay \$23.

Every sample slab collector has a story about a cherrypick. Congratulations to whoever got the PCGS doily for a quick \$15 Buy It Now on December 18.



PCGS grading set holders, as discussed and sold in prior issues, continue to trickle onto the market from a very small number of sellers. Once dispersed, these could become very rare and desirable.

For collectors who seek out error samples, look for one of the new PCGS Macau 20 avos show slabs from the 2016 Macau Numismatic Society show. Although I do not have a photo to show, the reverse label commemorates the “Annual” expo.

I Guess This Is a Sample Slab?



If it's a slab labeled “SAMPLE,” that makes it a sample slab, right? You have seen the popular Coin World brand slab style holders that allow collectors to put their coins in reopenable plastic cases resembling third-party grader encapsulations. Two different friends gave me examples of the Coin World holders illustrated here. Inside the shrink wrap for each is a paper folder with the word SAMPLE in yellow letters. Although it contains no coin, this slab is a sample and qualifies as a sample slab.

I do not know when or under what circumstances Amos Press (Coin World's parent company) gave away these holders. Because they are about the size of white ANACS slabs, the giveaway probably happened during the lengthy period the small white ANACS holders were in production from 1988 through 2004. Any light you can shed on this item would be appreciated. Also, if you are interested in adding one to your collection, I may be able to get more.

Book News – Slightly Lower Price for 2017

As Sample Slabs, second edition, leaves its first year, I am simplifying and slightly lowering prices. Instead of \$28 plus \$5 shipping, the printed book will be \$29 including shipping, both on SampleSlabBook.com and on eBay. The PDF download will remain at \$12 through both channels, although eBay PDF sales will have a shipping charge because eBay requires that a seller mail a tangible product to the buyer.

As always, I also sell the printed book in person for only \$19 check or cash. I attend the Long Beach Expo and several other California shows.

A few people asked me whether the catalog will have future editions. Considering the amount of work that went into this 620 page catalog, I don't plan to make another edition any time soon, if ever. Whether you already bought or plan to soon, don't worry that your second edition will become obsolete.

Frequency and Prices for PCGS Wheat Cents Graded "Authentic"

Date	Number	Total	Mean
1917	8	97.36	12.17
1918	8	55.91	6.99
1919	10	91.70	9.17
1920	21	189.56	9.03
1921	0	0.00	0.00
1922	0	0.00	0.00
1923	3	46.63	15.54
1924	6	59.14	9.86
1925	9	72.18	8.02
1926	11	119.38	10.85
1927	6	67.67	11.28
1928	6	81.64	13.61
1929	3	46.40	15.47
91	91	927.57	10.19



With several collectors assembling date sets of the PCGS-001-9-3 Authentic cents, I wanted to make this summary available to the sample slab fraternity. Any conclusions from this February 2015 – December 2016 data suffer from the small sample size problem. Even so, at least a few conclusions can be drawn from the 91

eBay sales in this period. First, some dates are noticeably scarcer than others. No 1921 or 1922 samples appear to exist. The 1922, in any of its forms, is too valuable, but I do not know why PCGS did not include 1921 coins. 1920 cents, in contrast, are the most common. Although prices do not vary widely, collectors are willing to pay premiums for less common dates such as 1923 and 1929. Finally, I have not seen any mintmarked coins in these slabs.

Of course, future discoveries could change any of the above conclusions, but most should stay stable as more sales enter the data set.

Any Twitter Users?

I set up a Twitter account for the use of the sample collecting community. If Sample Slab Update readers choose to follow @SampleSlabBook, I will post messages of interest to collectors. More importantly, all of us can use the account to make offers to buy and sell, even (and especially) in transactions where I am not involved. If you use Twitter, please take a moment to follow @SampleSlabBook.

Not Exactly Samples – Early CGC box

Currency Grading and Certification (CGC) used to encapsulate notes in rigid plastic holders much thicker than the semi-flexible slabs now used by all currency certifiers. A friend recently found one of these holders (the note was no longer inside) along with the CGC shipping box. I bring this up because of the intense interest garnered by the lime green PCGS box and early gold logo NGC 2x2 box mentioned in [Sample Slab Update #14](#). Those two boxes are now in strong hands in a major collection.



Does anyone happen to know anything about this CGC box, or know if it has any value? With Sample Slab Update readers knowing more about third party graders than any other group of collectors, I am sure that a few of us have opinions and knowledge.

Buying and Selling

Buying – I always need samples from obscure graders such as TruGrade, NuGrade, and Global. PCGS luncheon slabs are also of interest. I also welcome offers of anything else, either for trade or purchase.

Sample Slab Update reader Isaiah Hageman writes:

“I am seeking PCGS sample slabs from Treasure Hunts. Email me a list of slabs for sale with pricing, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. My email is: isaiahh1215@icloud.com. Thanks!”

Selling



ANACS club slab with a seldom-seen blue label. Despite the date, this club slab holding a wooden nickel was made in about 2010 as a companion piece to the similar 75th anniversary holder. Some have the yellow label typical of ANACS holders of the period, while a few, such as this one, have the unusual blue label. See page 103 of the second edition catalog for this slab, ANACS-WN-3-1. \$32

Rare grader NCS. From page 216 of the catalog: “Numismatic Conservation Services is part of Certified Collectibles Group of Sarasota, Florida, the parent company of NGC and PMG. They repair and stabilize damaged or otherwise impaired coins. NCS used to issue their own holders for problem coins, but now send coins to NGC for encapsulation.” In the 3+ years I tracked eBay sales, they came up only twice, with a single sale in 2015 and mini-ward of three pieces in 2016. This (NCS-005-1-1) is the only known sample or related slab for this certifier, which no longer issues its own holders. \$120





Early NGC show slab. Show slabs from any grading service as early as 1997 seldom appear. This holder (NGC-001-9) is surprisingly inexpensive, also considering its unusual label. This is the plate coin in Sample Slabs. \$27

PCGS Luncheon with world coin. PCGS chose this piece (PCGS-Cc1-9-1) to honor the Canada one cent coin that was phased out in 2012. Although too faint to appear in the photos, the slab has scuffs over the coin on both sides. \$45

Free shipping on all orders. To order any of the above, send PayPal to davidschwager@hotmail.com.



If you would like to place a brief buy or sell ad in the next Sample Slab Update at no charge, please email me. Also feel free to post buy and sell offers to Twitter @SampleSlabBook.

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